

April, 1988

Center for Slavic and East European Studies

Newsletter

Editor, Anne Hawkins 642-9107

361 Stephens Hall
University of
California
Berkeley, CA 94720
642-3230



PROCESSED

JUN 08 2006

GTU LIBRARY

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

The Center takes great pleasure in announcing the results of UC Berkeley graduate students in the prestigious national competition for 1988-89 fellowships awarded by the Joint Committee on Soviet Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. Graduate Training Fellowships were awarded to: **Marcia Levenson** (Geography), for training in preparation for dissertation research on marine resource management in Eskimo communities of the Soviet North; **Jason McDonald** (Political Science), for training in preparation for dissertation research on comparative politics and economic reform in the USSR, Hungary, East Germany, and Poland; **David Sedik** (Economics), for training in preparation for dissertation research on the macroeconomics of the NEP economy in the USSR; and **David Wolff** (History), for training in preparation for dissertation research on municipal development in Russian Manchuria, 1897-1917. Dissertation Fellowships were awarded to: **Mark Saroyan** (Political Science), for a dissertation on Muslim clerical discourse and practice in Soviet Azerbaijan; **Jan Eames Schallert** (Slavic), for a dissertation on the role of intonation in the syntax of spoken Russian; and **Mark Tauger** (History), for a dissertation on the Soviet collective farm system, 1930-1941.

Congratulations to **Mark Lundell** (Agriculture and Resource Economics) on his nomination for the IREX long-term research exchange. He joins other UC Berkeley nominees for 1988-89, announced in last month's newsletter: Robert Argenbright, Girish Bhat, Catherine Evtuhov, Steve Kotkin, Tony Swift, and David Wolff.

Congratulations are also in order for the following graduate students who have received FLAS or Mellon awards from the Center for intensive language study this summer in the USSR (5 with the ACTR program), Czechoslovakia (1), Hungary (2), and the US (2): **Conor Daly**, Slavic; **Robert Darst**, Political Science; **Jane Dawson**, Political Science; **Eric Hirsch**, Geography; **Patricia Howard**, Political Science; **Jason McDonald**, Political Science; **Eric Naiman**, Slavic; **Ben Nathans**, History; **Anne Nesbet**, Comparative Literature; and **Tim Whipple**, Slavic.

BERKELEY-STANFORD CONFERENCE

The XIIth Annual Berkeley-Stanford Conference will be held at the Stanford campus on Friday, April 22, from 9 am to 5:30 pm, followed by a reception. Devoted to an overview of scholarship and the humanities in the Gorbachev era, the program includes panels on historiography, the social sciences, economics, law, international relations, the literary fields, and film. The conference is free and open to the public. Those wishing to participate in a car pool from Berkeley should call the Center for Slavic and East European Studies, 642-3230. For other information, please call the Center for Russian and East European Studies at Stanford, 725-6852. A conference schedule is available at both Centers.

1988 COLIN MILLER LECTURE:
THE EMERGING REVOLUTION IN SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY
By Russell Faeges and Andrew Carpendale,
Graduate Students, Department of Political Science

Robert Legvold is so confident that Soviet foreign policy is undergoing a revolution that he offered to back predictions of substantial change in Soviet international behavior with a wager of dinner at a five star restaurant. In his speech to an overflow audience at the Y House on February 25, Dr. Legvold, professor of political science and director of the Harriman Institute at Columbia University, outlined the reasons behind the "revolution" in Soviet foreign policy.

Legvold rejected the view that changes in Soviet rhetoric are a mere mask for Moscow's machinations. In Soviet politics, he argued, words are deeds. Current Soviet statements and academic writings represent major changes in fundamental Soviet assumptions about the world. While rhetoric has changed, so too has policy. As evidence, Legvold cited the new Soviet positions on Afghanistan, arms control, and the Third World.

These changes are driven by domestic and international factors. Domestically, the Soviets realize the liabilities of the Stalinist system, which preclude the intensive, qualitative growth the Soviets need to compete with the West and to provide a respectable standard of living for the Soviet population. Internationally, the Soviets see the West Europeans and Japanese outstripping them economically and the US moving ahead militarily. Moreover, the Soviets realize they have overextended themselves in the Third World.

To Legvold, the revolutionary impulse goes beyond Gorbachev himself and extends to a new generation of Soviet leaders. Only a major crisis, for example, in Iran or in Eastern Europe, could delay the full implementation of changes in the Soviet mindset.

GASPAROV ADDRESSES BPSIB STUDENTS
By Tom Firestone, Graduate Student, Political Science

On Friday, February 14th, Dr. Boris Gasparov, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at UC Berkeley, addressed students of the Berkeley-Stanford Program on Soviet International Behavior.

Dr. Gasparov, a noted expert on Slavic linguistics, demonstrated various ways in which closer attention to the subtleties of Pravda and other Soviet newspapers could increase students' understanding of Soviet politics. He pointed out, for example, that one could often identify a given regime's social base of support by looking at the pictures printed daily on Pravda's front page. More populist regimes, he noted, often print pictures of "healthy-looking peasants," whereas discipline-oriented regimes, such as Andropov's, tend to picture lean, stern-looking "Stakhanovites." Similarly, Gasparov drew attention to the varying linguistic styles which different regimes employ. Populist regimes tend to use a more "folksy" style, whereas more conservative regimes, such as Brezhnev's, usually publish in a very formal, stilted language.

As a result of Gasparov's talk, students in the program undoubtedly will glean new insights from their future reading of Pravda.

HARBINGERS OF RUSSIA IN ASIA

A Talk With David Wolff, Graduate Student in the Department of History

A recurring word in David Wolff's conversation is "sources." For his dissertation, "To the Harbin Station: Municipal Development in Russian Manchuria, 1897-1917," he is now making use of confiscated Japanese records housed in Washington, DC. These elucidate aspects of the Russian colony otherwise made largely inaccessible to researchers by Russian and Chinese archival policies.

He envisions archival research in Moscow, Leningrad, Beijing, Taipei and Tokyo, since only materials in all three languages can successfully trace the transformation of pre-revolutionary Harbin from frontier town under government and railroad company control to self-conscious, semi-independent community. "I think what attracts me most to Harbin are the anomalies," says David. "Just imagine! New Town built on the hill by technocrats; everything laid out with spacious rationality, yet filled with the conflict of style moderne and neo-classicism, a tension which also dominated the architecture of Moscow and St. Petersburg at this time; and down by the river Pristan a welter of nationalities, workers' barracks, godowns, every kind of horsetrading, samogon stills, opium dens, a mosque, synagogues; and in the rainy season all of it reduced to a teeming swamp."

As urban history Harbin is also atypical. In a period when hindsight shows Imperial Russia edging toward the abyss, the rise of this "instant city" in Manchuria suggests that there were social groups capable of successful technological and political constructions. However, it is not by chance that precisely these groups clustered in the Russian city furthest from central authority.

As the recipient of an IREX award for 1988-89, David will be leaving for the Soviet Union next September. It will not be his first period of research and study abroad. Between the time of his graduation from Harvard in 1981 with a BA in the history and literature of France and Russia, and his arrival in Berkeley in the fall of 1984, he lived and studied in Paris, Berlin and Shanghai. As an exchange student from Harvard he was based at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, studying Soviet institutions and cinema, French politics and European diplomacy. 1982 found him in Berlin on a Rotary International Ambassador of Goodwill Fellowship. At the Freie Universität in West Berlin he participated in the Ostasiatisches Seminar, studying Chinese language and institutions. In 1983 he was selected as a Federal Republic of Germany/People's Republic of China exchange student by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the first non-German to receive this honor. He spent a year at Shanghai's Fudan University, taking courses in Chinese language and history, with a concentration on the period 1840-1949. "While I was in Shanghai," he says, "I had the opportunity to teach a semester course in the International Journalism Department. I had twenty students, who had been ruthlessly sifted out of a university considered one of the three best in China. It's wonderfully humbling to teach a group in which you know that all the students are smarter than you are. I hope it happens again someday."

David's long-term intellectual plans are "... definitely there in embryonic form." He intends to continue his study of the USSR from an Asian perspective: "I want to pursue subject matter which is applicable not only to Russian historiography, but also to the histories of Japan and China. I believe that this triangulation is the approach which best allows the recent past to contribute to our understanding of this region's geopolitics. From this perspective the problem

of Harbin takes on contemporary relevance." Japanese documentation will also be central to a projected sequel on Harbin as an emigre city (1917-1945), and to a study of interwar development in the Soviet Far East. In addition, because of its shared frontier with the USSR, Japan and China, Manchuria presents an unparalleled opportunity to explore comparative history through cultural interaction. For instance, it is possible to do a rigorous comparison of Russian and Japanese policies toward the Chinese labor force in Manchuria between 1907 and 1917; the similarity of the demographic mix and living conditions under both regimes creates a framework in which assumptions about international, interracial and inter-class behavior become the key variables.

But for now he will be concentrating on his dissertation. "I think it is a healthy antidote to area-studies boundaries which exclude intellectually fascinating topics because of borderline considerations. I'm grateful to my professors and to the Slavic Center for allowing me to cross some of these borders."

HUNGARIAN SOCIOLOGIST ADDRESSES MEETING

By Patricia Howard, Graduate Student

Department of Political Science

According to Elemer Hankiss, director of the Center for the Study of Sociological Values at the Institute of Sociology, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Communist party will continue to dominate Hungary but will lose some of its power to emerging political forces. Speaking at a Brown Bag Lunch on March 9, Mr. Hankiss said he sees a "Grand Coalition" taking shape in Hungary, comprising the party elite, new entrepreneurs, and the government bureaucracy.

He also foresees a growing division of labor between party and government. The second economy in Hungary has bred an influential lobby of managers grouped within the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce. The party elite and the new entrepreneurs are becoming increasingly enmeshed. Asked whose values were being changed by this new alliance, Mr. Hankiss said the party elite has few values left: "Only cynicism and empty rhetoric remain." As for the new entrepreneurs, studies show that despite their risk-taking prowess they tend to be conformist in their tastes and values. He believes that the so-called democratic opposition in Hungary will act as a counterbalance to this emerging elite, the events of 1956 having shown that the idea of democracy still lives within Hungarians.

And the rest of Eastern Europe? Mr. Hankiss said it can perhaps best be characterized as a hotbed of reform proposals, "...perhaps our best commodity." He sketched out many of the different scenarios envisaged for Eastern Europe, some of them broached by American academics. The scenarios vary according to the moving force behind change in Eastern Europe: the international system, with little reference to native forces; grass-root movements; or the ruling elite. At the moment, said Mr. Hankiss, the grass-roots scenario is the favorite with the East European public. Proponents seek a regeneration of civil society through an emphasis on moral and spiritual renewal; this is the message of Michnik in Poland, Havel in Czechoslovakia, and Konrad in Hungary.

Center for Slavic and East European Studies

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 6-27
Pacific Film Archive
2625 Durant

SOVIET FILMS: The Pacific Film Archive is offering a series, "New and Old Voices from Soviet Cinema," during the month of April. Showings will be held on the evenings of April 6, 8, 9, 13, 20 and 27. For information, see the PFA Calendar or call 642-1412.

Wed April 6
442 Stephens
NOON

BROWN BAG LUNCH: Nora Beloff, English free-lance writer, will speak on "Gorbachev's Leninism." Co-sponsored with the Department of History.

Thu Apr 7
219 Dwinelle
5:00 pm

LECTURE: Erwin Wedel, Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Regensburg, West Germany, will speak on "Toward a Poetics of Russian Fable."

Fri-Sun, April 8-10
Alumni House
Campus

TEACHERS CONFERENCE: "THE GORBACHEV ERA: AN UPDATE." The Center's weekend outreach program for teachers offers an intensive briefing on current Soviet affairs. The fee is \$30; reservations are strongly advised. To register, call the Center, 642-3230.

Mon April 11
IIS Conference Room
223 Moses
NOON

BROWN BAG LUNCH: Elez Biberaj, Voice of America specialist on Albania, will speak on the current situation in Albania and rising Albano-Yugoslav ethnic conflict.

Tu Apr 12
219 Dwinelle
5:00 pm

LECTURE: Jurij Striedter, Professor of Russian Literature at Harvard University, will speak on "Drama as Play with Reflected Expectation: Chekhov's Three Sisters."

Wed April 13
442 Stephens
NOON

BROWN BAG LUNCH: Aleksander Smolar, Senior Research Fellow, Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique, and Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for scholars, will speak on "Gorbachev and the Prospects for East Central Europe."

Thu April 14
Lipman Room
8th fl. Barrows
4:00 pm

LECTURE: Tamas Bacskai, Professor of Economics, Karl Marx University, and former director of the Hungarian National Bank, will speak on "The Rising Role of Money and Finance in Socialist Economies." Co-sponsor: The Willis H. Booth Chair of Banking and Finance (School of Business).

Wed April 20
442 Stephens
NOON

BROWN BAG LUNCH: Henry Reichman, Assistant Professor of History, Memphis State University, and Research Associate of our Center, will speak on "Center and Periphery in Russia's Revolutions."

Thu April 21
Alumni House
4:00 pm

LECTURE: Professor Seweryn Bialer will speak on "The Education and Progress of Mikhail Gorbachev." Professor Bialer is Belfer Professor of International Relations and Director, Research Institute on International Change, Columbia University.

Thu Apr 21
219 Dwinelle
5:00 pm

LECTURE: Dr. Christopher Barnes, St. Andrews, Scotland, Visiting Fellow at the Russian Research Center, Harvard University, will speak on "Pasternak and His Women in Life and Literature."

Fri April 22
Stanford
9 am - 5:30 pm

BERKELEY-STANFORD CONFERENCE: "SCHOLARSHIP AND THE HUMANITIES IN THE GORBACHEV ERA." For information, (415) 725-6852, and see item elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Wed April 27
3205 Dwinelle
4:00 pm

LECTURE: Robert Davies, Professor of History, University of Birmingham, will speak on "Historiography in the Soviet Union Under Gorbachev." Co-sponsored with the Department of History.

Wed May 4
442 Stephens
NOON

BROWN BAG LUNCH: James Van Geldern, Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Russian and East European Studies, Stanford University, will speak on "Early Soviet Mass Festivals, 1918-1920: Theoretical and Practical Questions."

Wed May 4
3205 Dwinelle
4:00 pm

LECTURE: Jonathan Haslam, Visiting Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley, will speak on "Maxim Litvinov and the Alternative Directions in Soviet Foreign Policy, 1918-1951." Co-sponsored with the Department of History.

Center for Slavic and East European Studies
361 Stephens Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
IV 03

FIRST CLASS